

before the end of the current year." The preface to vol. vii. is dated Nov. 23rd, 1908, and that of vol. viii. March 18th, 1909, thus leaving a period of less than five months between the dates of appearance of these two volumes!

Sir G. F. Hampson's arrangement of the Noctuidæ differs considerably from that of previous authors, and the genera referred to the *Acronyctinæ* in the present volume include, in addition to *Acronycta* and its immediate allies, many well-known British and European genera usually placed in other groups. Among these we may mention *Simyra*, *Laphygma*, *Xylomyges*, *Stilbia*, *Petitampa*, &c.

We have no need to remark on the general character of the letterpress and illustrations, as we have frequently done so before. We need only say that the high standard of previous volumes appears to be well maintained throughout.

*Illustrations of African Blood-sucking Flies other than Mosquitoes and Tsetse-Flies.* By ERNEST EDWARD AUSTEN, Assistant in the Department of Zoology, British Museum (Natural History). With coloured figures by Grace Edwards. London, 1909. Printed by Order of the Trustees. Roy. 8vo. Pp. xv, 221; col. pls. xiii. Price 27s. 6d.

THE dissemination of serious diseases by flies has been known for a long period, but it is only within the last few years that its extent and importance has been realized. The present volume is one of a series, suggested by Mr. C. O. Waterhouse, which the Trustees have undertaken to elucidate the increasingly important study of blood-sucking Diptera. Of this series four volumes of a Monograph of Mosquitoes, by Mr. F. V. Theobald, have been published, and a fifth is promised, while Mr. Austen has published a volume on tsetse-flies. The volume before us contains an account of African Diptera (North Africa, except Egypt, being excluded) belonging to the families Chironomidæ, Psychodidæ, Simuliidæ, Tabanidæ, Muscidæ, and Hippoboscidæ, illustrated by excellent coloured figures of 102 species. Technical descriptions of the species figured are omitted; but general observations on the families, genera, and species are given, with full particulars, as far as known, on the habits, localities, &c. of the species.

The book will be extremely useful in coordinating our present knowledge of the subject, and in furnishing a solid foundation for further observations; while even from the less important standpoint of systematic entomology the figures will be of great value to students of the Diptera.

In Chapter VIII. we have a list of African blood-sucking flies at present known (exclusive of mosquitoes and tsetse-flies), arranged under countries—another valuable feature of the work, which concludes with a good and comprehensive index.